

# Consumer **WARNING**

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL LISA MADIGAN

## BEWARE OF UNSOLICITED CALLS REQUESTING FINANCIAL OR BANK ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Illinois consumers are reminded **NEVER** to give out financial or bank account information over the phone in response to an unsolicited sales pitch. Consumers should hang up the phone immediately if an unknown caller requests their financial or bank account information.

In one version of a common scam, Illinois consumers are reporting calls from salespersons who tell them they are eligible for a "government grant" of several thousand dollars. In order to receive the "government grant," consumers are told they must first pay a few hundred dollars in processing fees. The caller then attempts to obtain information about the consumer's personal checking account, including the information found at the bottom of personal checks. The scam artists can be very persistent when trying to obtain this information; pressure to act quickly is another sign of a scam. Hanging up is the smart thing to do.

The same rule applies to unsolicited sales pitches made on the Internet or door-to-door: Whatever the situation, **NEVER** give out your bank account information to someone you don't know or trust.

Consumers victimized by this type of scam should contact their banks immediately and request a stop payment for the amount. If a debit has already gone through, consumers will need to work directly with their banks to complete paperwork contesting the debit and requesting a credit.

Consumers are urged to report these kinds of calls to the Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Hotline at 1-800-386-5438 (TTY: 1-800-946-3013) or Senior Fraud Helpline at 1-800-243-5377 (TTY: 1-800-946-3013).



**LISA MADIGAN**  
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL